



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

Biography

Kimberlydawn Wisdom, MD
Michigan Surgeon General



In February 2003, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm took an important first step toward revitalizing public health in Michigan by appointing Kimberlydawn Wisdom, MD, as Michigan's – and the nation's – first state-level Surgeon General to address Michigan's less than desirable health status.

When Governor Granholm appointed Dr. Wisdom, she asked that Dr. Wisdom serve as an unbiased, non-partisan, evidence-based, best practices advocate for the health of Michigan citizens. In addition, Dr. Wisdom was charged with rebuilding the public health system, developing public health policy, and building collaborative partnerships.

Dr. Wisdom has specifically focused on physical inactivity, unhealthy eating habits, childhood lead poisoning, tobacco use, infant mortality, unintended pregnancy, coordinated school health, HIV/AIDS, health disparities, and economic and social implications of not engaging in prevention activities.

She was a guest on ABC Nightline, and in 2004, Dr. Wisdom presented at several national events, including the Congressional Black Caucus 34th Annual Legislative Conference (invited by Congresswoman Kilpatrick), National Urban League 2004 Conference, Sixth Annual International Fatherhood Conference, National Conference of State Legislators Annual Meeting, and National Governors Association Center for Best Practices Designing Healthy Communities conference.

In addition, Dr. Wisdom serves as vice president of Community Health, Education and Wellness for Henry Ford Health System in Detroit. In this role, she leads quality initiatives to address health care equity and health disparities; and provide clinical leadership to community, health literacy and diversity initiatives.

Prior to Dr. Wisdom's appointment as Surgeon General, she served as the Founder and Director for the Institute on Multicultural Health at Henry Ford Health System (HFHS). She was also the Director of the Resource Center for Minority Aging Research Community Liaison Core funded by the National Institute on Aging. Dr. Wisdom has been a board-certified Emergency Medicine Physician at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, and an Assistant Professor of Medical Education at the University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor.

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Dr. Wisdom received her Masters Degree in Clinical Research Design and Statistical Analysis from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. In 2002, she was appointed by Secretary Tommy Thompson, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Diabetes Translation Advisory Committee.

She was a leader in establishing the Detroit Chapter of the American Diabetes Association. Nationally, she was the physician leader for the American Diabetes Association Continuing Education Program for pharmacists and was on the Diabetes Education Faculty for Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Dr. Wisdom was the founder and director of a community-based health screening initiative entitled African American Initiative for Male Health Improvement (AIMHI) funded by the Michigan Department of Community Health and has been awarded a grant through the Office of Minority Health to expand the AIMHI program by establishing two neighborhood screening/health education clinics. Her work with African Americans was recognized by the Michigan Affiliate of the American Diabetes Association (ADA) for her role in establishing the Detroit Chapter.

In 1998, the Detroit City Council recognized her contribution in the area of diabetes intervention in African Americans and awarded Dr. Wisdom a "Testimonial Resolution". In 1999, the Wayne County Commission awarded a "Testimonial Resolution to the African American Initiative for Male Health Improvement (AIMHI)". In 2002, Crain's Detroit Business magazine bestowed its Healthcare Heroes Award to Dr. Wisdom for her work focusing on the urban healthcare crisis in the African American community.

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